

A wild double strawberry from Colorado

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Three years ago plants of a wild strawberry, *Fragaria ovalis* (Lehm.) Rydb., bearing double blossoms were observed by Mrs. Earl Davis of Denver, growing in Deer Canyon near Littleton, Colorado. A casual search in the immediate vicinity indicated that all the strawberry plants bore normal single blossoms with the exception of those in this small area.



Fig. 1. Wild strawberry plant bearing double flowers. Appearance of garden-grown plants the third spring after transplanting from Deer Canyon; upper right, enlarged flower showing numerous petals developed at the expense of the stamens; lower right, head of sterile leafy bracts which forms in place of a normal, fleshy fruit. A number of these dry "fruits" are evident in the lower left part of the plant.

A few plants were transferred to Mrs. Davis' garden and one was sent to the University greenhouse. Those transplanted to the garden have spread and have borne blossoms for a month or more every spring. The figure represents a plant which was transferred to a pot for photographing.

The plants in the green house bore flowers almost continuously for a couple of years. The petals were greatly increased in

number; a few narrow ones had yellow tips indicating that they were transition forms between petals and stamens. True stamens were absent in all flowers.

Normal fleshy fruits have never been produced by either group of transplanted specimens. After the petals had dropped, a subglobose head of green leafy bracts developed but no fleshy receptacle was observed. Since the bract-like structures bore no seeds, it has been impossible to determine whether or not the double-flowered wild strawberry is a true mutation. All plants developing from runners, however, have continued to bear double blossoms.

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